CLIFFE CLARION

THE NEWSLETTER OF CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 1992

Why a Newsletter?

I believe that in a Parish, with Cliffe, Cliffe Woods, Cooling Street and the surrounding farms, a newsletter of some sort is useful to keep people in touch. There are over 1,800 homes in the Parish with over 4,000 persons on the electoral roll and a total population of 6-7,000. The Parish is divided into two wards, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, and you are represented by 8 councillors for each ward, most of whom put in a lot of hard work. I hope this Newsletter informs you of the activities of the council, other groups in the Parish and items of general concern. This Newsletter will be published when there is something the council feels you need to know and will not be put out on a regular basis. I sincerely hope that you find the effort and time put in to producing this well spent and if it arouses some constructive comments, then it will have been worthwhile.

Jaspar P Wright
Chairman of Cliffe Parish Council.

POLICE REORGANISATION

Earlier this year there was a considerable amount of reorganisation of the policing in Kent. As a result this area is controlled locally during normal hours from Hoo Police Station. Currently the officer in charge is Sergeant Berry and he has visited the Parish Council Meetings twice since his appointment, he also chairs a local committee of Parish Council representatives. Sgt Berry reminds us of the current anti car crime campaign with the message "IF YOU LEAVE IT, LOCK IT" Over 50% of the crimes committed on the Hoo Peninsula are on motor cars. He also reported that after 11 years dedicated work in this Parish, PC Roger White has been transferred to Gravesend. His replacement is PC Paterson a former Cliffe resident.

MOTORCYCLES

One of the most consistent complaints that the Parish Council receives is about the Motor Cycles on the marshes. Sgt Berry visited the Parish Council and explained the constraints within which the Police have to operate. He did point out that all motorcycles must be insured, all riders must have current driving licence, wear helmets and the cycles must be road taxed if used on the highway. He then outlined how the police proposed to tackle this problem, to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. Perhaps when this exercise is carried out, the nuisance created by this activity will be reduced. He was also concerned about the young children who were left unattended all day. The real answer to all this is an organised site, where the cycling activities will be correctly controlled. Is there anyone who is prepared to take on this task? When there is an organiser, then approaches can be made to the City Council and the Landowners.

DRUGS

11 ARRESTED IN CLIFFE WOODS CAR PARK.

Sgt Berry informed the Parish Council that the eleven arrests made on drug related offences had been the result of a long observation exercise that had taken the police team to many locations in the Parish, including the Fort at Cliffe Jetty. The final part of the exercise occurred in Cliffe Woods Car Park, when some 30 policemen in uniform and plain clothes swooped on the dealers. The cases of those charged will come up in court soon. The Parish Council having recognised the problem then took steps to speed up planned improvements to the lighting in this area. The councillors, like many parents in this parish, are very concerned about this problem and have taken some action and hope the parents do something too.

RURAL LIAISON SCHEME.

The Parish Council receive an annual grant from the City Council's Rural Liaison Scheme to fund a particular approved project. The amount granted is based on the number on the Electoral Roll.
Following the replacement of the City Council's playground equipment at Cliffe Woods by the City Council, the Parish Council called in playground experts to carry out an audit of its own equipment at Cliffe. As a result of their report certain repairs were carried out and one piece was removed. The Parish Council decided to use this year's Rural Liaison Grant to finance the purchase of some new play equipment for Cliffe.
Last year new gates and window grills were fitted to St Helens Church, 4 Benches were sited in Cliffe Woods and a new Gas Boiler was fitted in the Memorial Hall, all funded by the Rural Liaison Scheme.
The Parish Council are now seeking suggestions for next year's projects.

Your Councillors.

Here are your Parish Councillors, listed under each ward:-

Cliffe Ward.

Mrs Mary Brighouse - 221823
Mrs Thelma Enticknap- 220487
Richard Filmer- 220438
Mrs Freda Frost - 220687
Derek Green- 220240
Roy Harrison- 221858
Mrs Pat Leviston- 220403
Jaspar Wright- 220184

Cliffe Woods.

John Epps- 220194
John Evans- 220166
Stuart Fenton- 221073
Chris Fribbins- 220932
Ken Kentell- 221434
Mrs Anne McDonald- 220508
Peter Prescott- 220183
Mrs Margaret Windsor- 220737

Parish Clerk.

Mr Chris McLoughlin,
38 Milton Avenue,
Cliffe Woods.
221690

DIARY DATES

Here are two events to be noted on your calendar.

"Whist Drive" in the Memorial Hall on Friday 23rd October 92. Contact Mrs Cowling, 26 Wadlands Road, Cliffe.

"Christmas Fayre" in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st November.

Both events are in aid of St. Helen's Church.

If your organisation has any events they would like to include here, then please contact the Parish Clerk for details of our next edition.

1894 - 1994

In 1894 the Parish of Cliffe, together with the majority of other parishes in England and Wales, was formed.
The Parish Council would like to mark this historic anniversary and are starting to look for ideas and suggestions now to allow plenty of time for preparation.

DID YOU KNOW?

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council meets every first Thursday of each month, alternatively at Cliffe Woods Primary School and the Small Memorial Hall, Cliffe, the October meeting is in Cliffe Woods and the November one is in Cliffe. Members of the public and the press are welcome and the meetings commence at 7.30pm.
There is an opportunity to address the Parish Council. Of course you can write a letter, which is the best approach, and these should be sent to the Parish Clerk.
There is always the choice of contacting a Parish Councillor.

HOW DO I BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

There are elections held every four years, when the electorate are invited to vote for the sixteen seats on the Parish Council. The last election was in 1991, so the current councillors hold their seats until 1995.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council have a number of committees to ensure that all aspects of the Parish are operating satisfactorily.
Currently committees deal with such items as Finance, Planning, Recreation Grounds, Allotments, Footpaths and Common Land. Members are expected to join some of the committees and meet to discuss any problems that may arise.

OH! I HAVE NO TIME!

That is a frequent expression heard about lots of activities. By becoming a Parish Councillor you can contribute to the smooth running of your Parish. It does take some time, but not a lot, however it certainly takes commitment.

COMMITTEES

Currently there are seven committees:

Finance and General Purposes,
controls the finances and associated activities.
Contact -
Cllr Mrs Margaret Windsor.

Planning,
reviews all planning applications.
Contact -
Cllr Mrs Freda Frost.

Recreation Ground & Allotments
monitors the Recreation Ground, Playground and the forty four Allotments.
Contact -
Cllr Derek Green.

Footpaths and Common Land,
keeps an eye on the miles of footpaths and acres of common land.
Contact-
Cllr Roy Harrison.

Cliffe Woods Car Park,
makes sure that the latest acquisition by the Parish Council was completed correctly.
Contact-
Cllr Peter Prescott.

Rural Liaison,
ensures the projects are selected and installed satisfactorily.
Contact-
Cllr Mrs Thelma Enticknap.

1994 Centenary,
to coordinate special activities to mark the centenary of the Parish Council.
Contact-
Cllr Jaspar Wright

Committees can be formed to monitor other projects, which require some close attention.

IN BRIEF

B2OOO

Thanks to some finance provided by Greenham Concrete Products, a new lay-by will be made at the telephone kiosk in Town Road, Cliffe Woods and the lighting has already been improved on that road.
There are currently no plans by KCC for any other improvements to the B2OOO between Cliffe Woods and Cliffe Grange.

AMENITIES

Under the City Council's Amenities Scheme, a new pathway was constructed in St Helen's Churchyard to the new burial area, it's known as the "Highway to Heaven."
Thanks go to Greenham Concrete Products and Brett Marine Aggregates for their generous support.

EXPLOSIVES

Over the last six months explosives have been exported via the Blue Circle Jetty at Cliffe. The majority of the shipments were American surplus armaments, which were being sent back to the United States following the end of the Cold War. The Parish Council have been kept informed of the controls that had been imposed and were satisfied. There has been no firm commitment from the American Forces that they intend to carry on using this jetty facility, so the owners, Blue Circle Industries Plc, are unable to say whether this traffic will continue. Around ten local people are employed when this exercise takes place.

LORRIES IN CLIFFE

In an effort to try to prevent lorries missing the turning for the Salt Lane Industrial Area and eventually becoming stuck in Church Street, three new signs were erected on the B2OOO, in Buckland Road and Salt Lane. The cost of the sign on the B2OOO was met by Blue Circle Industries, Brett Marine Aggregates, Conoco and Greenham Concrete Products and the Parish Council are grateful for their generosity. The other two signs were paid for by the City Council.

SPORTS PAVILION

There is some doubt over the exact age of the Sports Pavilion in the Recreation Ground. It is definitely very old and is showing its age and the effects of continued vandalism.
The Parish Council is discussing the possibility of incorporating the pavilion within the Memorial Hall Building.

CAR PARK

CLIFFE WOODS.
The Parkside Car Park has been purchased for a small sum from the developers SNW and the Parish Council is now responsible for its maintenance.They are currently preparing to install improved lighting and have made separate "IN" and "OUT" entries.
Further improvements will be introduced when time and money permits.

ST. HELEN'S CHURCHYARD

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of church & village volunteers and of course our groundsman, St. Helens now has a churchyard that complements a church of this age and beauty.
If you could help in any way with this ongoing project please contact Cllr Mrs. Pat Levison

PARISH CLEAN UP

In April the second parish clean up, successfully advertised by the childrens poster competition, was carried out. Eight skips of rubbish later the parish looked a lot cleaner.
Thanks to all those who helped to make this such a successful exercise. Special thanks to 2nd Cliffe Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts who provided the marquee for refreshments and turned up on the day in such great numbers to help with the clean up.
A third clean up is planned for April 1993, many people turned up on the day this year, we hope even more will come next year.

CAB

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be holding a 'surgery' in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods two Tuesdays in each month. This will commence in November, the 10th and the 24th.
10.00 - 12.00 Small Memorial Hall Cliffe

01.00 - 03.00 Community Centre Cliffe Woods

£100 REWARD

Did you know that the Parish Council in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are constantly trying to fight vandalism. The council now offer a reward of up to £100 to anybody who gives information which consequently leads to an arrest & conviction for an act of vandalism in the parish.
The Parish Council wish to record their thanks to all members of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the coordinators in particular.
Your contacts are:-

Cliffe Coordinator
Mr. Clive Holliday - Cliffe - 221248

Cliffe Woods Coordinator
Mr. Ian Burroughs - Cliffe Woods - 220062

or your local Police Station at Hoo

CLIFFE MEMORIAL HALL

Special Meeting

Thursday 8th October
at
8.00 p.m.
in the
Small Hall

This meeting has been arranged to discuss the future of the hall.
ALL WELCOME.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

This will be published when there are enough articles to fill it or if there is an item of extreme importance or urgency.
Comments about this newsletter are welcomed.
Please contact:-

The Parish Clerk.
Mr. Chris McLoughlin
38 Milton Avenue,
Cliffe Woods,
ROCHESTER,
ME3 8TS.

VILLAGE HALLS

Our village halls are going through a tough time with costs rising and the inability to increase hire charges without losing customers.
Following their emergency meeting it is hoped that the steps now taken will guide Cliffe Woods Community Centre into a more stable situation.
The Cliffe Memorial Hall is over 20 years old and there are a number of repairs and improvements to be made under current regulations, and these cost money.
Apart from the hire charges,there are no other income sources, so some local fundraising effort will be required to raise the money to pay for these repairs.
The Hall management committee have stated that there is a shortage of committee members, so their first step is to recruit a full committee and then to address the problems.
With this in mind a SPECIAL MEETING will be held, so come along and listen to the problems and give your support in some way or other, you may have time and expertise to offer.
The Parish Council over the years has assisted with various projects at both halls, but cannot pour an unlimited amount of money into them.
It really is the VILLAGE HALL and residents of Cliffe should ensure that it continues to exist.
The residents of Cliffe Woods should ensure that their Village Hall, the Community Centre, continues to flourish by supporting its fundraising activities.

IT AINT HALF 'OT, MUM!

It has been reported that people have been seen swimming and diving in the Chalk Pits at Cliffe.
Whilst this year's season for swimming outside is all but over , we wanted to remind people that this practice is both **DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL.**
This is private land, fenced with many warning notices, anyone who enters this area is trespassing.

STOP PRESS

- ❑ At present there are a few allotments available. Contact Cllr Derek Green for details.
- ❑ Towtruc play equipment has been erected at Cliffe Recreation Ground.
- ❑ Eight new litter bins have been placed around Cliffe Woods.
- ❑ The re-installed In and Out access to Cliffe Woods car park seems to be a success.

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